

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend the drawings by entering the attached replacement sheet containing Fig. 9 for the original sheet. In the revised Fig. 9, reference characters "15" and "140" have been changed to ---240--- and ---23---.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present amendment, a new Abstract will have been submitted and several changes will have been made to the specification. In particular, several portions of the specification will have been amended. Further, a replacement sheet containing Fig. 9 will have been submitted.

Additionally, claims 1-4, 7 and 8 will have been amended, claims 5 and 6 will have been canceled, and claims 9 and 10 will have been submitted for consideration by the Examiner. In particular, each of the claims will have been amended to improve the form thereof and ensure the clarity of the language utilized therein. The amendments to the claims do not in any way narrow the scope of the claims and are not made in view of the prior art. Accordingly, the claim amendments do not give rise to any prosecution history estoppel.

Initially, Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for acknowledging his Claim for Foreign Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119. Applicant further thanks the Examiner for confirming receipt of the certified copy of the priority document in the present application.

Applicant additionally notes with appreciation the Examiner's detailed and exhaustive review of the present application.

Initially, before addressing the merits of the present application, Applicant notes the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on December 4, 2003.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner asserted that the above-noted Information Disclosure Statement fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2). In particular, the Examiner asserted that a copy of Japanese Document 2000-272524 has not been provided.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner is incorrect. A copy of the above-noted document was filed and to evidence such filing, a copy of Applicant's mailroom date stamped receipt is attached hereto. Further, for the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant is attaching an additional copy of the above-noted reference so as to facilitate the Examiner's consideration thereof.

The Examiner also asserted that Japanese Document 57-142677 appears to be an incomplete copy. Applicant notes that the above-noted document is a utility model and that the two pages submitted are a complete copy thereof.

The Examiner further asserted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 4, 2003 fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) because it does not include a concise explanation of the relevance of each patent listed that is not in the English language. The Examiner asserted that a number of Japanese language documents do not include a concise statement of relevance (such as an Abstract) in English.

Applicant respectfully traverses and directs the Examiner's attention to page 1 of the present application at which each of the documents that are asserted by the Examiner to not include a concise statement of relevance is listed. This paragraph of the disclosure fully complies with the requirements for a concise statement of relevance.

The Examiner further asserted that the listed English language Abstracts "are not considered other documents but are what is required to be filed with a particular Japanese document to be considered".

Applicant submits that the English language Abstract are most definitely other documents. In other words, they are not part of the underlying Japanese patent publications but have a separate disclosure and a separate publication date. The

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disclosure, of course, is related to the disclosure of the underlying document but they are not the same. Since they have a separate publication date, they are certainly appropriate to be listed under Other Documents. The mere fact that they are one way by which Applicant can satisfy the requirement for a concise statement of relevance is not relevant to the issue of whether they are "other documents". They are other documents because they have a separate publication date and the disclosure thereof is different, although related, to the disclosure of the underlying document.

In addition, on the returned PTO-1449 Form that were attached to the above-noted Information Disclosure Statement filed on December 4, 2003, a number of documents that were initialed by the Examiner were nevertheless designated with asterisks which, according to a stamp on the 1449 Form, indicates that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office did not receive these documents. Applicant submits that copies of these documents were in fact filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office as can be evidenced by the attached copy of the PTO mailroom filing receipt. Nevertheless, should the Examiner need additional copies of these Abstracts, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned and such copies will be promptly sent to him. Additionally, if the Examiner is in need of Japanese Patent Document 63-52666, he is also respectfully requested to contact the undersigned who will provide a copy to the Examiner.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the Information Disclosure Statement filed in the present application on December 4, 2003 complied with 37 C.F.R. § in all regards. The documents that the Examiner has asserted have not been provided in fact have been provided and a complete copy of the Utility Model was also provided. In addition, a concise statement of relevance

for each of the documents is provided. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the Examiner's indication that the documents have not been cited and return of a signed and initialed PTO-1449 Form indicating that each of the documents cited by Applicant has been considered in the present application. Again, as noted above, if any of the documents properly submitted by Applicant are missing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned who will promptly submit additional copies for the Examiner's consideration.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings. In particular, the Examiner noted that the drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. In this regard, the Examiner asserted that the features of claim 5 are not shown in the drawings and suggested how Fig. 9 could be modified without adding new matter to the application. By the present Response, Applicant has amended the specification and drawings to eliminate the above-noted informality. In this regard, the reference characters of Fig. 9 will have been revised and a paragraph of Applicant's specification will have been revised to more accurately correspond to the revised Fig. 9.

The Examiner further objected to the drawings asserting that the reference character "15" has been used to designate both a lower column in Fig. 8 and the tilt locking mechanism housing in Fig. 9. As noted above, Fig. 9 has been revised, and reference character "15" is no longer indicated therein. Thus, the above-noted objection to the drawings has been overcome.

The Examiner additionally objected to Fig. 9 as "not being properly able to function". As noted above, Fig. 9 has been amended. In particular, the upper column member is no

longer shown in Fig. 9. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this objection to the drawings has also been overcome.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding objection to the drawings in view of the amendments to Fig. 9 (and the corresponding amendments to the specification) as submitted herewith.

The Examiner additionally objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure. The Examiner indicated that improper grammar was utilized in the first two lines and suggested that the Abstract be revised to describe the invention in further detail.

By the present Response, Applicant has corrected the grammar in the beginning of the Abstract and has also revised the Abstract to more specifically define the features of Application's invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract.

The Examiner additionally objected to a number of areas of disclosure for various informalities. By the present Response, Applicant has amended each of the above-noted portions of the disclosure to eliminate the enumerated informalities. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the objections to the disclosure.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner objected to claims 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. As previously noted, by the present Response, Applicant has revised Fig. 9. Additionally, Applicant has canceled claims 5 and 6. Newly submitted claims 9 and 10 relate to previously pending claims 5 and 6 but are submitted to be fully enabled by the disclosure of the originally-filed application.

In this regard, Applicant notes that by the present amendment, he has not changed the subject matter of the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 9 but has merely changed the reference characters to more closely correspond to the reference characters utilized in describing the first embodiment of the invention as shown in Figs. 7 and 8. Additionally, Applicant has merely amended the description of the preferred embodiment 2 on page 12, so as to comply with amended Fig. 9. Accordingly, neither the changes to Fig. 9 nor the changes to page 12 of the specification introduce prohibited new matter into the present application. Accordingly, entry of the above-noted changes and withdrawal of the various objections and rejections related to Fig. 9 are respectfully requested and are now believed to be appropriate and proper.

In the outstanding Official Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner asserted that the claims are indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

By the present Response, claims 1 and 7 have been amended to eliminate the language deficiencies noted by the Examiner. In this regard, Applicant notes the Examiner's comment that there is no element such as the female screw. In this regard, Applicant submits that a female screw is defined in Applicant's application at at least page 8, lines 12-13 and is clearly shown in at least Figs. 8 and 9.

Applicant has further amended the claims to improve the language thereof and to enhance clarity without narrowing the scope thereof. Accordingly, in view of the above-mentioned remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each

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of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action. Such action is respectfully requested and is now believed to be appropriate and proper.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has discussed each of the Examiner's objections and rejections and has amended the disclosure (Abstract and specification) as well as the drawings. Additionally, Applicant has amended the claims to eliminate any basis for rejection and has improved the language thereof to enable it to more clearly define Applicant's invention. Accordingly, Applicant has provided a clear evidentiary basis supporting the patentability of all the claims in the present application and respectfully requests an indication to such effect in due course.

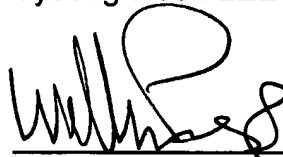
Applicant has further traversed the Examiner's refusal to consider various references cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of December 4, 2003 and has submitted a duplicate copy of the 1449 Form for the Examiner's convenience.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

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Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding this Response, or the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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